

"Los Importados"
(The Imported Ones)

Since the first concrete manifestation of solidarity which took place among the banking personnel as far back as during the years 1917 - 1918, what has been going on and achieved by the tremendous efforts of the employees of the credit institutions reaches proportions of outstanding quality.

If the passing of the years brings with it the natural progress of the evolution of society, the progress itself facilitates the focusing of problems from a new angle, so that the impossible of yesterday becomes feasible tomorrow by the mere transformation of the surrounding characteristics which refer to a certain moment in the times.

Thus, the banking employees who have been acquiring definite personality as an entity of workmen since that first concrete manifestation of solidarity, did not submit themselves to putting their hopes in the evolution which accompanies the march of time, but any mark of progress was a sure basis for new advancements and a stimulus for new enterprises.

Since 1923, parallel with the general labor legislation, our union has been promoting the furtherance of special legislation for bank workers, which an executive leader of exceptional high standing has translated into undeniable facts in the syndical field where we still have - we are the first ones to confess it - many of our rights pending which call for recognition.

One of these, important and little mentioned, is that which refers to the situation of the foreigners in banking activities "the imported ones" ("Los importados"), as they call them.

We believe it is time to speak of it in a decisive manner, without waiting for the passing of the years to bring the solution. This must be anticipated because our union, our people and our government, by evolution, are sufficiently prepared for it.

The first practical evidence manifested of the preoccupation created by the problem of foreigners in the banks, was in the inclusion of an article in the preliminary project of modifications of Law 12637 at a meeting of delegates of the whole country, held in 1949, Article 2, sub-division j) of which reads:

"The policy of promotion to key positions will be by contest between candidates or by capacity, years of service and conduct, fixing a maximum percentage for the foreigners."

During many years we have seen the careers of many capable employees frustrated and lives embittered on account of "los importados" who have come to our country with "America made", without any other title or merits than a resolution or recommendation made thousands and thousands of kilometers from our beaches, as a prize for factors which we have no interest in knowing.

First of all let us extend our "welcome" to whoever seeks better fields of action in these lands, and we do not in any way pretend to block the road for work to whoever approaches our country.

It hurts us and is intolerable that an English, French, American, Italian, Dutch etc. bank has reserved their leading positions for those who do

not even know the fundamentals of our language; for he who has never been engaged in banking activities, for he who by his status of "importado" is placed in an eminent and well remunerated position, while he has to be taught the elementary aspects of the daily routine by his subordinate Argentines.

It hurts us and is intolerable that at the end of each international commotion or military conflict in far away countries and sometimes without these causes, there come to our country "los importados", managers, accountants and chiefs, made over night, with appointments which duplicate and triplicate those fixed by the labor-agreements in force, when it is frequent to hear their lamenting apologies by which they wish to excuse their selfishness towards the work of the native born, or locally employed personnel.

It hurts us and is intolerable to see "los importados" arrive who, without any other merit than that of being imported, occupy the best positions in the banks, sometimes the modest ones as well, blocking the rungs of the ladder of promotions to the Argentines who, throughout the number of years carry out their duties with zeal and capacity worthy of the best compensation.

This problem, which is characteristic of the private banking enterprises, calls for a quick and fair solution which can come through the present resources of the National Law 12367, as a complementary provision prepared by the Honorary Advisory Commission and converted into a Decree by the Executive Power of the Argentine Nation through the Ministry of "Trabajo y Prevision".

(signed CATON)

translation of a leading article from the "Accion Bancaria", official organ of the Asociacion Bancaria Sociedad de Empleados de Banco, entitled, "Foreigners in Banking Activities" - "Los Importados". Published in January of 1953.

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